Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims to read as follows. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for managing interruptions to a network user, the interruptions being generated by a plurality of senders on a network, the network user having a permanent reception list the method comprising:

modifying a temporary reception list in response to <u>at least</u> one of <u>a determination of an occurrence of</u> a retrospective activity <u>in a user-defined time period</u> and a <u>determination of a</u> prospective activity <u>scheduled to occur in a user-defined time period, the retrospective and prospective activities being activities that are independent of communications having simultaneous participation between the network user and another network user</u>, the permanent reception list and temporary reception list each indicating at least one sender from whom the network user is willing to accept an interruption;

receiving an interruption from one of the senders on the network; <u>and</u>

presenting the interruption to the network user if one of the permanent reception list and the temporary reception list includes an entry associated with the one of the senders on the network.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the retrospective and prospective activities comprise calendar-based entries established by the user.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of presenting the interruption further comprises:

receiving an urgency value associated with the interruption;

comparing the urgency value with an interruption threshold value defined by the network user; and

presenting the interruption to the network user if the urgency value exceeds the threshold value.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving a user status request from one of the senders;

generating a generic status message if the permanent reception list and the temporary reception list do not include an entry associated with the sender of the user status request; and

generating a customized status message if one of the permanent reception list and the temporary reception list includes an entry associated with the sender of the user status request.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein presenting the interruption comprises presenting an alert to the network user if one of the permanent reception list and the temporary reception list includes an entry associated with the one of the senders.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the alert comprises a signal that an interruption has been requested, and at least one portion of an initial 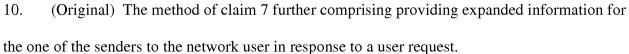message from one of the senders and an identification of the at least one of the senders is stored in a table for inspection by the user.
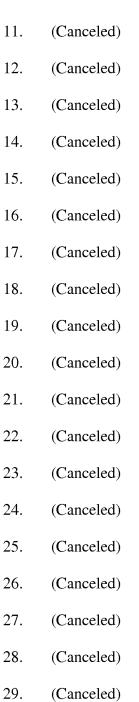
9.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the alert comprises at least one of a portion of an initial message from the one of the senders and an identification of the one of the senders.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising providing expanded information for

the one of the senders to the network user in response to a user request.

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Canceled)

16.   (Canceled)

17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Canceled)

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Canceled)

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Canceled)

24.   (Canceled)

25.   (Canceled)

26.   (Canceled)

27.   (Canceled)

28.   (Canceled)

29.   (Canceled)

30.   (Canceled)

31.   (Canceled)

32.   (Canceled)

33.   (Canceled)